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BEQUEST OF
R. SINGLETON PEABODY, Esq.



January 8, 1962

Mr. John M. Kemper
Clerk of the Board of Trustees
Phillips Academy
Andover, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Kemper:

Our last annual report referred to recently completed alterations in the south room, and stated our conviction that we had developed cases with such flexibility that they could be used for a variety of purposes. We also expressed the hope that we had conquered the problem of excessive heat radiating from the closed-up windows in the room. During the summer, temporary exhibitions in several cases were completed in final form; in the course of this operation we discovered that we had, indeed, insulated the windows so that there is no longer any troublesome radiation from them.

Few persons realize why so much time is required to complete the installation of an archaeological exhibition. One primary reason lies in the fact that the material on display is not accompanied by any diagram or directions for assembly, and that new discoveries may greatly alter interpretations of cultural value and function as well as the chronological position of an entire archaeological complex. Such changes occurred between the time when the initial temporary displays in two cases were laid out and the time when it was possible to complete the installations, making it necessary to re-do the entire case. Time-consuming research in archaeological literature is usually needed before a display can be installed, and this, in turn, is followed by time-consuming work with the collections before suitable specimens can be selected.

In general, archaeological specimens require some form of treatment before they can be put on display. Sometimes this process is simple, involving little more than washing or mending, with attention to the catalogue number to ensure that it is not removed or lost. In other instances, particularly in the class of perishable specimens, suitable steps must be taken so that the object will be preserved or restored to its original condition, if this is possible. Here research in the literature or



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experimentation in the laboratory frequently precede actual treatment of irreplaceable pieces. In the case of a fragment of bast-fibre cloth from a grave at Etowah, Georgia, we were faced with the problem of preserving material which had dried until it had become hard and brittle. It could not be sewn onto a textile backing as is the practice with cloth from Egyptian or Peruvian graves. We therefore were forced to develop our own treatment. We soaked the cloth with acrylic resin until it acquired sufficient body to allow cleaning with similar resin and solvent. Following this treatment we mounted the cloth between pieces of Plexiglass as a sandwich, with separating "islands" set in holes in the fabric. We then sealed the entire assembly with cement. The result is satisfactory for purposes of exhibition, and the finished assembly can be examined by persons interested in the weaving technique employed.

Copper plates bearing ceremonial designs produced by a pseudo-embossing technique were seriously damaged by "bronze disease." This self-sustaining deterioration of copper can only be arrested completely by electrolytic treatment which removes chlorine ions from the metal. Although we used this process several years ago, one specimen apparently was not treated for a sufficient length of time to eradicate completely the reaction. Mr. Barss made available apparatus and material as he had done before, and thus permitted us to set up an electrolytic cell to treat these pieces. In the course of this operation we discovered elements of design and decoration that were not previously known. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Barss for his assistance.

A short note describing these processes is being prepared for publication.

Yet to be installed are panels which will introduce the visitor to each of the new halls. Set into one side of each entrance, each panel will carry an introductory general label and at the same time act as a baffle to reflections from cases in opposing halls. Two temporary displays in the north room are to be removed; their places will be taken by two installations designed to present geographic and cultural problems in northeastern archaeology, suggesting solutions which may be found in cases already

installed. Two other cases await installation of exhibits which have been under study for some time.

It is a pleasure to report that appreciative comments have come from professional and lay visitors. Increasing numbers of people visit the museum, particularly on weekends. During the spring and summer, weekend attendance has been greater than ever before.

The Foundation carried on no field research in New England during 1961. Field work on Archaic sites in southeastern Massachusetts has occupied Mr. Johnson for several years, but the unfortunate accident to Mr. Johnson's eye in the autumn of 1960 interfered with such activity during the past year. Although he has recovered from the painful accident, he carries a partial disability which has materially interfered with some phases of his work. As opportunity offers, he continues studies of his collection, pointing toward a comprehensive review of the occupation of southern New England some five to six thousand years ago.

Shortly after their return from the Yukon in 1948, Dr. Hugh M. Raup and Mr. Johnson prepared a summary report of their findings. This report was never intended for publication. Recently it has seemed advisable to publish results of the Andover-Harvard Yukon Expedition. With this end in view, Mr. Johnson is preparing photographs of specimens to be made up into plates. The manuscript is undergoing revision and is being edited so that it can be submitted for publication.

Although Mr. Byers had planned to open two or three small excavations at Ellsworth Falls during the summer, it proved impossible to do so. The level of water in the Union River was again so high that it was impossible to get to the proper spot on the Smith Farm. The object of the excavations was charcoal from the lowest level of the site, associated with artifacts typical of the Kelley Phase. Radiocarbon dates from Ellsworth Falls apply to levels above that of the Kelley Phase, and demonstrate that this phase must be more than 4000 years old. Scraper-planes like those of the Kelley Phase at Ellsworth Falls have been found in sites widely separated in North America. At some of these locations they appear to be 6000-8000 years old. A



contemporary occupation of northern New England is not yet proven.

In our last report we discussed the Tehuacan Archaeological-Botanical Project, directed by Dr. Richard S. MacNeish and financed by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. In September we distributed THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TEHUACAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL-BOTANICAL PROJECT. Since copies were sent to the Trustees we need devote little more space to the work of the 1961 field season. It seems safe to say that the results to date are more than satisfactory, that preliminary studies indicate that the truly wild ancestor of maize has been discovered, and that there seem to be indications that society and culture grew increasingly complex as progressive improvements in maize guaranteed a more abundant and more stable food supply.

There is yet need for a larger and more representative sampling of sites. It is hoped that this sampling will produce sufficient specimens to provide statistically valid series of archaeological types as well as evidence of the continuity between people who had not learned to make pottery and their successors who were accomplished potters. While this gap remains to be bridged, there is need of a stronger representation of the early hunters of the Ajuereado and El Riego complexes of some 8000 to 10,000 years ago.

During September, the Peabody Foundation submitted to the National Science Foundation a proposal for financial support for a continuation of the work. Although payments from the original grant are still being received, these were not sufficient to support an undertaking of the magnitude of the Tehuacan Project. We have been informed that the National Science Foundation has taken favorable action on the proposal, and that we shall receive an additional grant of \$40,000 to support an additional season of field research as well as a season in which results will be analyzed and a manuscript prepared for publication.

During September, the Peabody Foundation also submitted to the National Science Foundation a proposal for financial support of a project designed to establish a radiocarbon chronology for the archaeological sequence in the Tehuacan Valley, Mexico.



This project is to be under the direction of Mr. Johnson whose connection with radio-carbon dating is well known. It is anticipated that some 70 samples will be secured for radiocarbon analysis, and that these samples will be selected with the utmost care with an eye to assuring a valid connection between radiocarbon sample and cultural expression. By this means the Peabody Foundation intends to establish a detailed chronology for the past 10,000-12,000 years, determined as accurately and soundly as possible for each of the more than 26 cultural levels now known. Such a solidly anchored chronological column will be of the utmost importance to all Middle American archaeology, and to much North American archaeology as well, serving as a point of reference for many chronologies now established chiefly on the basis of estimates, cultural correlations, stratigraphic relationships and intuition. The importance of such a chronology to students of plant genetics and to economic botanists cannot be ignored. Data bearing on the evolution of climates and on the paleoecology of southern Mexico should provide a considerable body of material for interesting and instructive comparison with paleoecological studies of parts of the southwestern United States.

Radiocarbon age determinations of samples are to be made by a commercial laboratory which has promised prompt results. It should thus be possible to secure determinations while work is in progress, enabling the field party to guide their program accordingly.

The National Science Foundation has taken favorable action on this proposal, and the Peabody Foundation will receive a grant of \$14,000 for the purpose of establishing a radiocarbon chronology as an adjunct to the archaeological-botanical work.

Mr. Johnson will go to Mexico in February in order to establish procedure for collecting and recording samples during the season of 1962. At the same time, Mr. Johnson will discuss with Dr. MacNeish and his associates the reasons for such rigorous standards governing the selection of samples, the possibility of prehistoric and modern contamination of samples, and other circumstances affecting the validity of

dates to be determined under the program.

It is a pleasure to report that a class of ten students is enrolled in the course offered by the Foundation. Mr. Byers has found it necessary to revise the course extensively in view of the many changes in archaeological theory and information that have occurred within the last few years. During the Evening Study Group program in the Fall term, Mr. Byers offered a course which was attended by twenty-five people.

A steady demand for publications results in sales which should return something more than \$500 annually to our publication fund. At the same time we have reviewed exchange agreements with other institutions, filling out sets of publications of such institutions where necessary and sending copies of our publications to complete sets in the hands of institutions in foreign countries as well as in the United States.

In our last report we noted that one session of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Society for American Archaeology was devoted to a review of progress during the preceding twenty-five years, and that Mr. Johnson had acted as coordinator of this session. He then assembled and edited the eight papers which summarize developing archaeological theory and accomplishments in the several areas of the New World during this interval. Together with an introductory paper which Mr. Johnson wrote, these constitute a large part of the July, 1961, issue of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY.

The review article which Mr. Byers prepared for another session of the same meeting is to appear with other papers of a second symposium in a publication in the Technical Series of the Arctic Institute of North America. Although this has been delayed by editorial problems, it should appear in the near future. Mr. Byers was among several scholars who were asked to prepare comments on a general paper treating The Paleo-Indian in Eastern North America which will appear in an issue of CURRENT ANTHROPOLOGY. This paper is now in press.

During the year Miss Theodora George has taken charge of our office. In her capacity as Secretary she has reorganized the files, systematized our records, and simplified office procedure so that they are now in better shape than ever before. At the same time she has worked out a detailed, yet simple, accounting system which



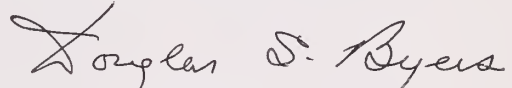
permits us to keep a more accurate check on every phase of our operations.

Mr. William A. Davis has continued the high standard of installations which has drawn such favorable comment from both professionals and laymen. It is a pleasure to acknowledge our indebtedness to his good taste and artistic skill.

Lastly, but by no means least, we must point out that without the cheerful cooperation given by Mr. Philip F. Watson, our Custodian, the Museum would not be such a clean, attractive building, nor would it function properly. Mr. Watson has patiently cleaned and polished the floors after children and baby-sitters have tracked water, sand, and salt into the building, has kept the drains by our cellar windows open so that we have not been flooded in heavy rains, has assembled our wooden winter steps and handrail when snow threatened, and at the same time been an effective receptionist during the absence of others from the building.

Without such willing and helpful cooperation from the entire staff, it would be a far less pleasant task to keep the Foundation in operation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas S. Byers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Douglas S. Byers
Director



